



GARY R. HERBERT  
*Governor*

SPENCER J. COX  
*Lieutenant Governor*



Julie Fisher  
*Executive Director*



Claudia Nakano  
*Director*

**For immediate release**  
28 May 2014

Geoffrey Fattah, 801.245.7205  
Communications Director, Utah Dept. of Heritage and Arts

Winston Wilkinson, 801.560.0907  
Chair, Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission

## **Utah Martin Luther King Jr. Commission Expresses Sorrow in Passing of Maya Angelou**

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah Martin Luther King Commission wishes to express its sincere condolences on the passing of renowned poet and author Dr. Maya Angelou.

During her storied life, Dr. Angelou served as an example of dignity and grace for women worldwide in addition to sharing the wisdom of her life's experiences to all as an award-winning writer and poet. She was also nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for film-making and received three Grammy Awards.

Dr. Angelou was a leader in the American civil rights movement of the 1960s, serving as northern coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. As an educator, she accepted the lifetime Reynolds Professorship of American Studies at Wake Forest University, North Carolina, where she taught a variety of subjects, including philosophy, ethics, theology, science, theater and writing for three decades.

Dr. Angelou was awarded the Presidential Medal of Arts in 2000, the Lincoln Medal in 2008 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011. Her legacy will live on as a woman of high intellect and indomitable spirit who served as an inspiration for others to follow.

For more on the Utah MLK Commission: <http://heritage.utah.gov/multicultural-affairs/mlk-commission-for-human-rights-about-us>

###

---

### **About Utah Office of Multicultural Affairs**

The Utah Office of Multicultural Affairs was established within the Utah Department of Heritage and Arts to develop culturally-diverse outreach programs for all ethnic communities with the vision to inspire, strengthen and empower Utah's multicultural community. Additional information on the programs and services can be found at [multiculturalaffairs.utah.gov](http://multiculturalaffairs.utah.gov) or by calling 801.245.7214.